GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:251
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
SALE OF BANNED MEDICINES
Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banned Indian medicines are illegally being sold through internet as pointed out in the latest report of the International Narcotics Control Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check it?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) : In the year 2005, a case of misuse of internet for unauthorized distribution of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drug and psychotropic substances was detected by the Narcotics Control Bureau in an international operation. The offenders were taking orders and payments for supply of painkillers and tranquilizers etc. on the internet and the medicines were sourced from India. In this case, 24 arrests were made in 8 countries. Six persons were arrested in India.

(c) Action taken by the Government to avoid and detect any such misuse of internet are as follows:-

(1) Improved coordination between the various drug law enforcement agencies in order to impart greater cohesion to interdiction.

(2) Strengthening of international liaison to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of operational intelligence.

(3) Increased international co-operation for exchange of information and investigative assistance in the case having international ramification.

(4) Circulation of details of modus operandi among national and international drug law enforcement agencies.

(5) Conducting training programmes for law enforcement officials for upgrading their skills to combat drug trafficking.
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